

~~TOP SECRET~~CHAL-0608
Copy 6 of 1819 March 1959
18 MAR 1959

STAFF MEETING MINUTES - 17 March 1959

Personnel Present: Mr. Bissell

Mr. Reber

25X1A

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25X1A



Col. Geary

25X1A

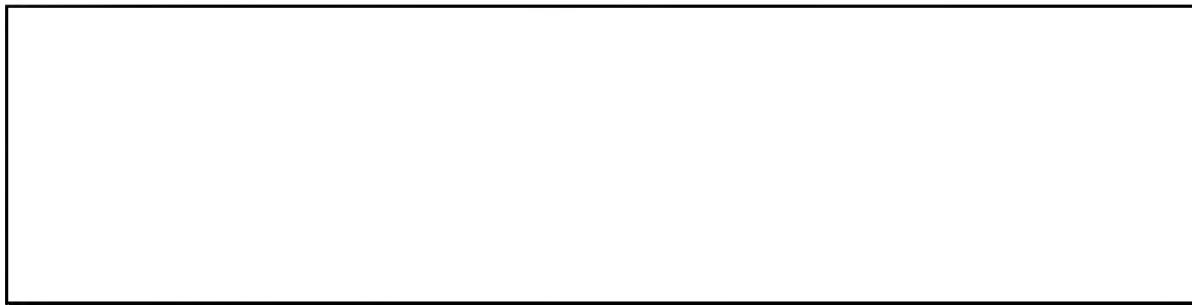
Mr. Cunningham

25X1A

Col. Burke

CHALICE

25X1C

ACTION: Mr. Cunningham

Mr. Bissell suggested that thought be given to activities other than the over-flights contemplated; for example,

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2. U-2 vs. FLEET RADARS, SAN DIEGO AREA reported that the Navy could support U-2 vs. Flight Radar tests twice a month. Mr. Bissell felt that such a program was entirely desirable and that we should go ahead with such plans.

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ACTION: Operations

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3. TEST STATUS BOARD - The second aircraft (number 358) has gone into IRAN for J-75 modification two days ahead of schedule. In this connection, it was determined that the J-75 mods should be carried on regardless of At present, approval has been given to cut frames for the modification, but actual installation and tests of the second J-75 are being delayed

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However, this is only an internal

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approval mechanism and will not in any way halt the modifications, particularly in view of the fact that Mr. Bissell is certain that Kelly Johnson has reached a point of confidence wherein he would guarantee a 3,000 foot increase across the profile.

4. MALFUNCTION REPORT - Noise in aircraft 378 (T-Band vs. Systems III) has been corrected. Detachments will continue to keep working on this and correlate findings with Headquarters.

TRACKER - In view of the fact that thirteen missions have been run without any Tracker malfunction, it appears that the malfunctions were as a result of a let-down in quality control rather than the equipment itself. Mr. Bissell commented on above to the effect that these monthly reports are extremely worthwhile and should be encouraged.

5. GERMAN TRIP REPORT - Col. Burke advised that the over-all purpose of the trip, namely, a survey of air assets in Weisbaden, had been successfully accomplished and concrete recommendations as to their use would be made before the end of the week. He briefly reported that maintenance was adequate and comparable to that performed on other USAFE aircraft.

Regarding training: their operations that are conducted in light aircraft was good, but, in the C-54, not quite so good, due to the German weather and the requirement to perform it only during proper moon phases. It was suggested to the air unit there that stagings be conducted to off-set above disadvantages. Col. Burke also reported that the operational facility was good and that definite improvement has been noted under the aggressive direction of [redacted] There will be in Wiesbaden a conference, 25X1A commencing 5 April, to which DPD will send instructed delegates. Purpose of the conference is future of the Round Robins.

6. CONTRACTING OFFICER AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR ORAL OR WRITTEN APPROVALS (CHAL-0499) - Mr. Bissell stated that it was highly desirable to revert to the practice of having one focal point for oral or written approvals of additional contracts and that this focal point should be the Contracting Officer. Recently, there has been a tendency for the approval to emanate from various offices which leads to confusion both here and at the suppliers. While there is no objection to an informal approval on a crash basis, it is necessary that the approval and confirmation come from the Contracting Officer in order to maintain uniformity of procedure.

7. OTHER ITEMS - Mr. Bissell directed that all action on procurement of ELINT equipment (receivers) be held up pending re-examination of the program.

ACTION: Operations

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Mr. Bissell then brought to the attention of the staff that one of the Area Divisions is planning an operation which involves air assets. He used this as an example of an instance in which he will require from DPD units their best judgement on the success probability, requirements, the flight plan, [redacted] and the overall feasibility of the plan. He will then use this guidance in discussing this intended project as well as all future ones with the Area Divisions concerned.

ACTION: Mr. Reber, Operations

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He expressed his feeling that [redacted] courier aircraft was very worthwhile and that Operations should continue to assess its capability.

A decision is expected this week regarding the CORONA extension (FY-60).

Mr. Bissell reported that he had what he described as an attractive proposal from Kelly Johnson, relative to the GUSTO vehicle. This should be looked at before final commitments are made on this program.

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APPROVED: [redacted]

25X1A

WILLIAM BURKE
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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